Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

The Coordinator

PLAIN Simple

Maybe, Maybe Not

Controversy was the tone of the April WWARA meeting when the WWARA granted testing on 146.98 to Pete Kruml. What makes this decision controversial is that there is an existing repeater in operation on the frequency whose coverage is basically the same as Mr. Kruml's proposed operation.

The WWARA has had in place for many years a set of by-laws and coordination policies that incorporate a set of rules the Association are to operate to. One of these policies is that each coordinated system is required to renew their coordination at five-year intervals or they loose their coordination status. With respect to 146.98, the frequency was coordinated to Bob Donnell and has become known as the 9600-Baud Packet Repeater. Bob's 146.98 coordination expired on July 6, 1999. Notice of Bob's expiration was published in the May 1999 issue of The Coordinator. WWARA policies provide a six-month grace period after the expiration date where the expired coordination holder may renew their coordination. Realizing that there was no current coordination form 146.98, Pete Kruml applied to the WWARA for coordinated use of the frequency.

Bob, realizing that someone else was applying for the frequency contacted the WWARA wherein he allowed that "I do understand that the status on the coordination for the 9600 Baud Repeater Group repeater on 146.98 is expired, by my error and inattention, and frankly had planned on contacting WWARA . . ." Bob further explained that his repeater has been available continually for the retransmissions of digital communications.

WWARA band chair Pete Policani was tasked with the difficult situation to unravel. On one side is the existence of an "on air" repeater whose coordination has expired and an application for a new coordination which if granted would most likely interfere with the existing repeater's operation not to mention the mix mode usage of the frequency. Do you grant testing and run the risk of interference? Do you deny testing and provide a measure of protection to an uncoordinated repeater? After a short discussion at the general membership meeting April 7th, Mr. Policani gave permission to Pete Kruml to begin testing on the frequency over the current frequency users objections.

The Internet Remailer used by the WWARA Board became alive with opinion and counter opinion. The board was definitely split between a purely technical evaluation wherein the WWARA is essentially recommending one repeater interfere

"... they take entirely too much for granted and there are no squatter's right on radio spectrum."

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Controversy

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with another and a political evaluation wherein the WWARA coordination policies have been carefully followed and allow the WWARA to coordinate the frequency to someone else. In an effort to provide some more insight to the debate Ken Rau, WWARA vice-chairman contacted Mr. Dennis Anderson Engineer in Charge of the Seattle FCC office and posed a question about how the FCC would apply the standard interpretation that the uncoordinated system has the prime responsibility of any interference when the WWARA has not recognized the CURRENT ACTIVITY on this frequency, and has allowed testing by a new station? Mr. Anderson contacted the FCC Council FCC/HQ Amateur legal advisor for an official opinion; "My view is that the coordinating body is free to coordinate another repeater on the frequency if it wants to. The repeater that was coordinated let it expire, and now he takes his chances. The fact that he is still active on the frequency is obliterated by the fact that he is uncoordinated, so he doesn't have to be recognized. The coordinating committee could renew it, but doesn't have to. This is a problem many repeater owners have: they take entirely too much for granted and there are no squatter's right on radio spectrum."

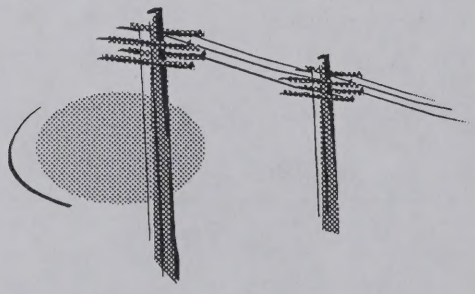
Therefore, the WWARA was not obligated to consider the existing operation of Mr. Donnell when it recommended Mr. Kruml to begin testing on 146.98 though it could have. The governing instrument is the WWARA coordination policies. Chairman Bruette is scheduling a meeting of the Association's Board of Directors to review the Associations action with respect to 146.98.

Last August the WWARA membership voted to accept a new set of by-laws and coordination polices to be used in conducting the Associations business. As these policies are being phased in the Board and Chairmen have noted some difficulties and inconsistencies which need to be addressed. Chairman Ed Bruette elsewhere in The Coordinator is looking for committee volunteers to review and recommend changes to the Association's bylaws and policies. Until the committee review is complete, recommendations done and membership approval, the potential for further controversy exists. Considering Mr. Anderson's recent response this committee will have its work cutout considering it must balance political and technical issues to meet the needs and wishes of the western Washington Amateur community.

FCC CONTACTS UTILITY IN HAM INTERFERENCE CASE

The FCC has written Cumberland Electric Membership Cooperative of Clarksville, Tennessee, in a case of suspected power-line interference to an Amateur Radio operator. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, has been working with the amateur, Paul Fulk Jr, N8ITF, of Springfield, Tennessee.

Fulk first complained to Cumberland two years ago and is still trying to get the situation resolved. The FCC now has put the ball back squarely into the utility's court. A Cumberland official has told ARRL that the utility will fix the problem if it's at fault.



In a March 20 letter to Cumberland, Consumer Center Deputy Chief Sharon Bowers of the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau advised the utility to "locate the source of interference caused by its equipment and make necessary corrections within a reasonable time." According to the FCC, after Cumberland's efforts to take care of the interference failed, the utility told Fulk that if he or an ARRL representative could locate the problem, Cumberland would fix it.

Bowers, however, told Cumberland that in cases of power-line interference "it is not possible for non-utility company people to safely perform all of the tests necessary to identify the source of the interference." And the FCC reminded Cumberland that Commission rules require the operator of the device radiating interference to locate and eliminate the interference.

Continued on page 4

COMPLAINING ABOUT RFI MAY COST MONEY

What if the neighbor of a ham radio operator filed a radio frequency interference ("RFI") complaint and received a bill because the ham was NOT directly causing the problem? That's exactly what's about to happen in the United Kingdom where that nation's Radiocommunications Agency - or "RA" - will soon be charging citizens who file baseless complaints.

Under the new system, the complainant will be charged ú50 if, following the investigation, the RA finds that the interference is not due to any illegal use of radio or faulty electrical equipment other than the complainant's own TV or radio installation. However, there is a provision whereby suspected illegal use of radio transmitters can be reported without exposing the complainant to possible fees.

Amateur Radio Newsline #1237, RA-179 Leaflet

FCC ADVISES SEVERAL HAMS ABOUT TRANSMIT-FREQU ENCY QRM WHILE OPERATING SPLIT

The FCC recently sent advisory notices to several hams who may have caused QRM on their transmitting frequencies while operating split to work SSB DX on 40 meters. The complaints stemmed from operations during February.

"While this may not have been malicious interference, please be advised that amateurs must operate in accordance with Section 97.101 of the Commission's rules, which sets out the general standards for operation of an Amateur Radio station and specifically covers frequency sharing and interference," FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote.

Since most of the rest of the world only has access to 7.000 to 7.100 MHz—still in the US CW subband—US stations working 40-meter SSB must listen for DX stations in the US CW band while transmitting "up" within the US 'phone allocation.

HAM RADIO NUMBERS SHOW POST-RESTRUCTURING GROWTH SPURT

Amateur Radio is experiencing a bit of a growth spurt in the wake of amateur license restructuring. FCC licensing statistics as of the end of March—the most recent complete figures available—show a net gain of approximately 6600 current licensees, or about 1%, from last April, when restructuring went into effect. Prior to that, the number of amateurs had remained relatively stable since 1998.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the full impact of license restructuring—including the elimination of the 13 and 20-WPM Morse exams—is slowly making itself felt within the amateur community. "For the first quarter of 2001, ARRL VEC test session statistics show that new and upgrading amateurs continue to earn licenses at a rate stronger that that of first quarter 1999 and first quarter 2000," he said. "This is a positive trend that we expect will continue over the coming months."

As of the end of March, according to statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, the FCC showed 684,359 current licensees on its books, although the number of active amateurs is believed to be far smaller. Speroni's figures show that more than 20,000 new amateurs entered the hobby over the past year, while attrition was on the order of 13,600.

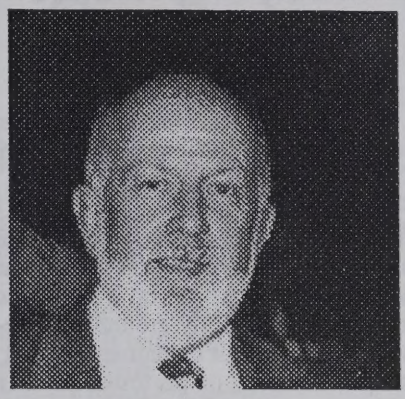
Overall, statistics show growth in the number of Extra, General and Technician licensees from year-earlier figures, while the number of Advanced, Tech Plus and Novice licensees declined.

Jahnke says comparing the ARRL VEC's first quarter 2001 numbers shows that interest in the Extra class license is up by as much as 30% over the first quarters of 1999 and 2000. "Extraordinarily, interest in the General license is up 450% to 650%!" he said.

With the change to a new, 50-question Extra class written element that combines material formerly covered in the 90 questions contained within the old Advanced and Extra tests, some predicted the Extra test would be easier to pass. That's not proving to be the case this year—at least at ARRL VEC-sponsored sessions, where the Extra pass rate has declined by nearly 7% from 1999. Technician and General pass rates this year have been up on the order of 10% to 12% from pre-restructuring rates, however, at ARRL VEC sessions.

Licensee numbers compiled by Speroni show that the FCC issued nearly 5400 new licenses in the first quarter of this year—more than 2230 in the month of March alone. That compares with around 3730 new hams in the same quarter last year. As would be expected, the vast majority of the newcomers entered the hobby as Technician licensees. March was one of only three months in the past year where the number of new licensees exceeded 2000. For more information, visit Speroni's Amateur Radio Education Web Site, http://ah0a.org/AH0A.html.

Clay's CORNER



Clay Freinwald - K7CR

One thing that I have learned about dealing with Amateur Coordination over the past 25 years. Its not a perfect process. The WWARA, not unlike other coordination groups around the country do their best to try and make it fair to all. The problem is there is no rule book to operate from. The coordination process is an evolutionary one. What I mean is that the rule book that we use (our By-laws and Policies) have evolved over the past 25 years from a simple 'one sheet' to a multi-page document that tries to cover all the bases. Last year the WWARA made up for lost time and re-wrote a good part of our Policies with the goal of making the coordination process better and more democratic, all this based on the past couple of years experience. The process of improving the process and updating our policies should be a continuous process, one that never stops. The reason it can't stop is that we keep learning, through experiences, how to make it better. If we do stop, we are moving backward.

One of the major changes made last year was the introduction of a 3 step process leading to coordination. Let me review, in simple terms, how this works.

FIRST – An applicant for coordination works with the Band Chairman to develop a formal application to be submitted to the Board. When the Band Chair is convinced that all the issues have been resolved, he submits a formal application for coordination to the Board.

SECOND – The Board then has the responsibility to look at the issues that have surfaced thus far and determine whether or not to accept or reject the recommendation of the Band Chair.

THIRD – The Board presents its recommendations to the Membership at the next Regular Business Meeting of the Association. This time anyone can speak in favor or against the matter. If no member objects or the Members vote to approve the Board Reccomendations **then and ONLY THEN**, is the coordination process complete.

Its important to understand that this three step process is necessary to insure that the process is fair to all. The days when a 'coordinator' simply issued a verbal 'go-ahead' are long gone. Instead of 'instant coordination' we now have a process that can take months to be final. Taking time to do it right is vital if we are going to keep the respect of those that we serve. Technical and Political issues are going to become increasingly complicated as time goes by. Mistakes are going to be made, but in the end the decisions we make will be a reflection of our collective wisdom and will be significantly more respected. As congestion and spectrum occupancy increases, the pressure on those that serve this organization will increase as well. At the end of the day, it will be YOU that will be asked to vote yea or nay. This is why its so vital that you participate in the process.

The Coordinator

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The WWARA acknowledges and thanks World Radio, ARRL, FCC, Newsline, HamRadio Online and W5YI for allowing us to reprint some of their articles. Visit the WWARA's web site at http://www.wwara.org

Utility Interference

Continued from page 2

Fulk first contacted Cumberland Electric Membership Cooperative in the spring of 1999 to complain of RF noise on his C-band television receiver, his 220 and 440 MHz repeaters, and his HF receiver. The utility replaced a distribution transformer and three broken insulators. It also discovered a noisy and poorly grounded cable-TV power supply, and it recommended that Fulk put insulators on his tower guy wires and improve his tower grounding.

The RF noise continued. Last spring, Fulk contacted ARRL for assistance. Hare, in turn, contacted the utility—as well as ARRL Tennessee Section Manager O.D. Keaton, WA4GLS. Keaton visited Fulk and reported his own observations to ARRL.

Cumberland forwarded a copy of the 1999 site visit, stating that the noise was still present despite the repairs and concluding that "all known electric utility sources of common electrical interference have been detected and corrected." Fulk disagreed and asked the utility to continue its efforts to eliminate the noise. He also asked the FCC for assistance.

In its letter to the utility the FCC raised the specter of violations and fines, but for now, the FCC said, it would prefer for the parties to resolve the problem "without FCC intervention." The FCC told Cumberland to advise Fulk within 30 days of the steps it's taking to correct the reported interference.

The ARRL Technical Information Service offers additional information on RFI and power-line interference, http://www.ARRL.org/tis/info/rfi-elect.html. Amateurs suffering from interference believed to be emanating from power-generation or transmission facilities may contact Ed Hare, W1RFI, rfi@arrl.org .

Rumor has it that IT is here! IT's orange! IT's in high demand! You best get yours now so you can get IT before ITS gone!

Correspondence/Transaction Log

03/02/2001... Email to ARRL- BRENNAN PRICE, N4QX
03/03/2001... Received $3 for CF from JON MARCINKO, WR7JM
03/07/2001... Email from NORMAN RAY, W7LFA
03/08/2001... Email to NORMAN RAY, W7LFA
03/09/2001... Email to NORMAN RAY, W7LFA
03/09/2001... Correspondence from/to JEAN KROUM, KC7AVP
03/10/2001... Received $1 Donation from Unknown
03/10/2001... Received TD, $15 for CF from MARTIN JOHNSON, KC7ZWG
03/10/2001... Received $5 for RD from DON LYNN, KD6LSM
03/10/2001... Received TD, $25 for CF, RF from EARL GARBER, N3EG
03/10/2001... Received $20 for RF from CHARLES NORTHCUTT, W7SRZ
03/11/2001... Email from CHARLES NORTHCUTT, W7SRZ
03/13/2001... Email to CHARLES NORTHCUTT, W7SRZ
03/14/2001... Received 3 TD's, $45 for CF from B GUNNERSON, WB0CZA
03/14/2001... Received $12 for Dues from ROB LEE, K7TGU
03/14/2001... Received 2 TD's, $30 for CF from ROB LEE, K7TGU
03/15/2001... Coorespondence from MIKE KUNZ, KB7TRT
03/17/2001... Received TD, $15 for CF from NORMAN RAY, W7LFA
03/17/2001... Received $45 for CF from DAVID AMOS, WB7DFV
03/21/2001... Received $12 for Dues from JOHN SCHURMAN, AA7UJ
03/22/2001... Mail returned from MASON COUNTY ARC, N7SK
03/24/2001... Received 2 TD's, $15 for CF from STEVE SZOMBATHY, W7UDI
03/25/2001... Email to CHARLES NORTHCUTT, W7SRZ
03/25/2001... New email address from MIKE MULLARKEY, K7PFJ
03/26/2001... Email to/from MARTIN JOHNSON, KC7ZWG
03/26/2001... Email from/to CHARLES NORTHCUTT, W7SRZ
03/26/2001... Email to KIRK BELLAR, N7UK
03/27/2001... Email to EARL GARBER, N3EG
03/27/2001... Email from/to CHARLES NORTHCUTT, W7SRZ
03/28/2001... Email from CHARLES NORTHCUTT, W7SRZ
03/31/2001... Email to JAMIE HUGHES, KD7HPE
03/31/2001... Received 3 TD's from CHARLES NORTHCUTT, W7SRZ
03/31/2001... Email to HOWARD SELMER, N7RTT
04/01/2001... Received 3 TD's, $45 for CF from JON MARCINKO, WR7JM
04/01/2001... Email from JAMIE HUGHES, KD7HPE
04/02/2001... Email to/from JEAN KROUM, KC7AVP
04/03/2001... Email to/from NORMAN RAY, W7LFA
04/03/2001... Received On-line Renewal from ROBERT DONNELL, KD7NM
04/04/2001... Received On-line Renewal from W.E. WHITNEY, WO7O
04/05/2001... Email from PETER DAHL, WA7FUS
04/05/2001... Rcvd 2 On-line Renewals and On-line Upd frm P POLICANI, K7PP
04/06/2001... Received TD, $15 for CF from ROBERT JOHNSON, WA7ZWG
04/06/2001... Received $18 for Dues, RD from GARD FORESTER, KF6GAQ
04/06/2001... Emails to/from PETER DAHL, WA7FUS
04/06/2001... Received $18 for Dues, RD from ERNEST BEETZ, K7BTZ
04/07/2001... Received $12 for Dues from PETER DAHL, WA7FUS
04/07/2001... Received TD, $15 for CF from ROBERT DONNELL, KD7NM
04/07/2001... Received Update from PETE POLICANI, K7PP
04/07/2001... Received $12 for Dues from GLEN KRISTENSEN, N7UIG
04/07/2001... Received TD, $15 for CF from PETER DAHL, WA7FUS
04/07/2001... Received 2 TD's, $30 for CF from STEVE SZOMBATHY, W7UDI
04/07/2001... Email from NORMAN RAY, W7LFA
04/07/2001... Received new email address from MARTIN JOHNSON, KC7ZWG
04/07/2001... Received $12 for Dues from DAVID EAKINS, K7OV
04/07/2001... Received 3 TD's, $24 for Dues from KENNETH KOSTER, N7IPB
04/08/2001... Received On-line Renewal from GIL ELDER, N7PRJ
04/11/2001... Correspondence from/to ALLEN HART, N7FYU
04/11/2001... Email from BOB LEWIS, KC7TGA
04/13/2001... Received TD, $22 for Dues, RF from PETE KRUML, N7KFJ
04/14/2001... Email to GIL ELDER, N7PRJ
04/14/2001... Rcvd TD, $37 for Dues, CF, RD, Donat frm R GREELEY, NU7D

The WWARA has openings for a few good people. If you have an interest please contact one of the WWARA officers.

Editor

The Association's newsletter, *The Coordinator* will be needing a new editor to assume the process of creating content and physically laying out of the news letter beginning with the February 2002 edition or sooner. Six editions are published each year.

Qualified candidates must have Internet access, a computer and printer with software capable of creating and laying out content for the newsletter. Position requires approximately 8 to 16 hours every other month. If you would like to apply, please contact any of the WWARA officers or representatives.

Webmaster

The WWARA maintains a web site at www.wwara.org. The sites purpose is to keep WWARA members and non members informed about the coordination process, latest news and meeting locations, provide online coordination renewal and a forum for northwest amateurs to post comments and questions regarding the coordination process. The WWARA Webmaster will maintain and create content for the site. Additionally the WWARA Webmaster will maintain the WWARA remailer.

Qualified candidates must have Internet access. A knowledge of html coding, some Perl and java script programming experience, and a basic understanding of FTP and Unix like servers is required. Additionally some software tools including a .pdf document generator to aid in the development and maintenance of the web site is a plus.

Position requires a minimum of 2 hours per month and will start on January 1, 2002 or sooner. If you would like to apply please contact any of the WWARA officers or representatives.

Committee Members

The WWARA has been wrestling with the thorny issue of how to respond to an application for coordination on a frequency pair that is in use by a previously coordinated repeater. During this process various people have called the By-laws and Coordination Policies into question. My commitment is to put the tools in place so that we will have clear guidance if this should ever occur in the future. To do that we need a committee to review both of our guiding documents. The committee may recommend we change the By-laws and/or Coordination Policies or it may recommend no change. While I would like the committee to conduct the review with the current dilemma in mind, their tasking will not be restricted to that area.

I have made a recommendation to the Board of Directors that they appoint a review committee but, we need people willing to serve on the committee. The qualifications needed to serve on the committee are; be a member of the WWARA and have a sincere interest in fair and equitable repeater coordination practices. If you meet these criteria please give serious consideration to volunteering for this committee. We need your help! - Ed N7NVP

I would like to thank everyone who has been using the Payment Coupon when submitting Dues or other payments. It saves a ton of time with the processing.

Dead Mail File:

The USPS is returning mail for the following individuals:

-William Penner, WB7DPF
-Matt Kula, KC7LOC
-Scott Bogue, K7SEX
-Dennis Lauby, WB7UFR
-Herschel Whiting, WS7K

If you know their whereabouts please let me know.

Mark N6OBY - Secretary

Correspondence Log con't

04/14/2001... Received $22 for Dues, RF from W.E. WHITNEY, WO7O
04/14/2001... Received $10 for RF from GIL ELDER, N7PRJ
04/15/2001... Email from LENNY RYERSON, KA7EOV
04/15/2001... Email to NORMAN RAY, W7LFA
04/15/2001... Email to PETER DAHL, WA7FUS
04/15/2001... Email to RANDY GREELEY, NU7D
04/15/2001... Emails to/from KEN KOSTER, N7IPB
04/15/2001... Email to W.E. WHITNEY, WO7O
04/16/2001... Email from NORMAN RAY, W7LFA
04/16/2001... Email to SCOTT CRONK, N7FSP
04/17/2001... Email from RANDY GREELEY, NU7D
04/17/2001... Emails to/from HARRY LEWIS, W7JWJ
04/17/2001... Email from SCOTT CRONK, N7FSP
04/17/2001... Email from BEARONS, W7FLY
04/18/2001... Received Online Update from JOHN SPRAGUE, KA7JUR
04/21/2001... Email w/Callsign change from LLOYD TUFFS, K7WG
04/22/2001... Email to LLOYD TUFFS, K7WG
04/24/2001... Email from LLOYD TUFFS, K7WG
04/23/2001... Received 2 TD's, $30 for CF from GARY KOHTALA, W7NTF
04/23/2001... Received $12 for Dues from BOB NIELSEN, N7XY
04/29/2001... Received TD, $10 for RF from STUART FARMER, K7WF
04/29/2001... Received 2 TD's, $24 for RF from BRUCE SHURTZ, W7BAS
04/30/2001... Email from/to ARRL- BRENNAN PRICE, N4QX

LEGEND: TD= Technical Data Sheet, CF= Coordination Fee,
RF= Renewal Fee, RD= Repeater Directory

Freshly *Squeezed* Not From Concentrate

Well at least it is ORANGE. And it does contain freshly squeezed data. The 2001/2002 WWARA's Northwest Repeater Directory is now available. WWARA members and qualifying amateur groups can purchase copies for $6.00 ea. The retail price at the stores will be $8.95. To mail order your copy send $6.00 plus $1.50 for shipping and handling to:

WWARA Repeater Directory
PMB 243
16541 Redmond Way
Redmond, WA 98052

Or, you can purchase your at the next WWARA meeting and save the shipping and handling fee.

Amateurs who have prepaid for their directory will be receiving theirs after the June WWARA meeting.

Radio Regulations: FCC offers new guidelines on indecency

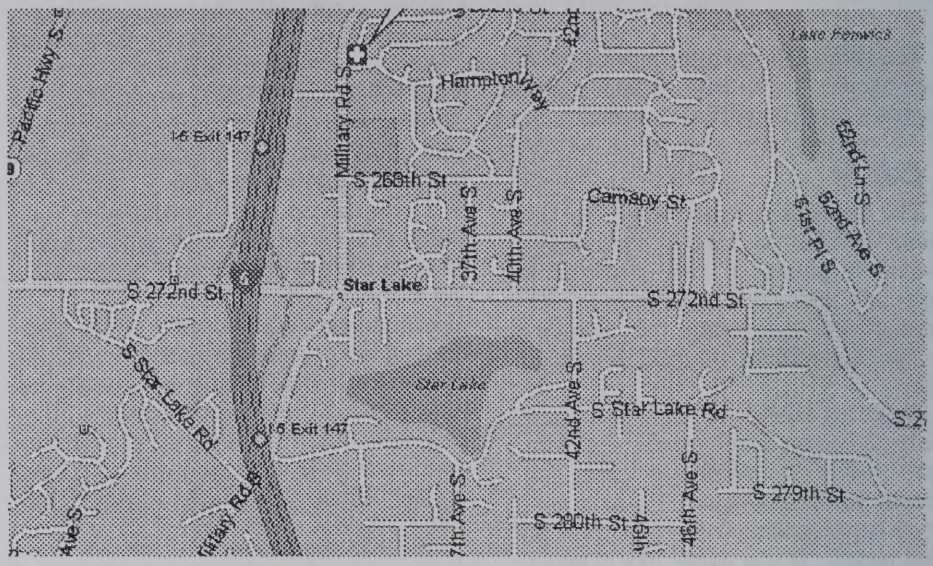
Broadcasters uncertain about what type of programming they should keep off the airwaves can turn to new government guidelines on indecency. This as the Federal Communications Commission presents the latest factors it considers when determining whether a broadcast is indecent.

For the FCC to act, the broadcast must fall within the agency's definition of indecency. In other words, programming must be patently offensive to an average viewer or listener. Also, how graphic the material is and whether it is repeated can play into the decision on whether or not to take disciplinary action.

Indecent speech is protected by the First Amendment and but can be regulated to some extent. As a result, the ban on indecent broadcasts applies only between 6 AM and 10 PM. These are the times of day when children are more likely to be listening or watching. The FCC says that it does not monitor the airwaves for indecency. It does, however, look into complaints from the public about television or radio content. If the commission decides that a station is airing indecent material, it can revoke the station's license, impose a fine or issue a warning. It also has the right to apply the same standards to any radio transmission, including those made by hams.

Meeting Notice....

The next WWARA Membership meeting will be June 7, 2001 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Kent Fire Station #73.



DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS -

From the North or From the South...Take the 272nd Street Exit #147 from I-5

Go EAST on 272nd.

Immediately get in the left hand turn lane at the first traffic signal

Turn left (you are now going North) onto Military Road.

Follow Military Road North for about ½ mile, Fire station is on the RIGHT.

Need further directions?

Call Clay Freinwald, K7CR on his cell phone 206-947-6115

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
16541 Redmond Way – PMB 243, Redmond, WA. 98052-4482

EASY PAYMENT FORM

My enclosed check is for: Check # _____
____ year(s) Dues @ $12/year Total $ _____
____ Rptr Directories @ $6 each for members ($8.95 each for non-members)

Name: _____ **Call:** _____
Addr: _____ **Freq:** _____
City: _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____
Home #: _____ **Work #:** _____
Email: _____

Admin area: CL:_____ DB:_____ QB:_____ RD:_____ TN:_____

Minutes of April 7, 2001 General Membership meeting

The April 7th, General Membership meeting was held at Kent Fire Station #73. Chairman Ed Bruette, N7NVP, called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated. In attendance were: Mike Eakins- K7OV, Peter Policani- K7PP, Glen Kristensen- N7UIG, Roger Hansen- W6TOZ, Steven Szombathy- W7UDI, Jon Marcinko- WR7JM, Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV, Bryon Gunnerson- WB0CZA, Marvin Moye- N6MXR, Bill Hunholz- N7HNM, Gary Kohtala- W7NTF, Robert Donnell- KD7NM, Steve Stolen- K7CCR, Peter Dahl- WA7FUS, Ken Koster- N7IPB, Mike Hill- N7NFY, Nancy McKibbin- KB7BJE, Mark McKibbin- WR7V, Clay Freinwald- K7CR, David Swartz- KC7RRH, Pete Kruml- N7KFJ, Ed Bruette- N7NVP, and Mark McClain- N6OBY.

Ed Bruette- N7NVP, gave a brief review of the WWARA Bylaws and the stated purpose of the WWARA. Ed also recapped the organization's involvement at the Puyallup flea market, and the positive response to the RF coverage prediction plots provided by Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV.

The minutes of the February 1, 2001, General Meeting were approved.

The current financial report was distributed, along with a corrected Year-end 2000 statement. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for approving the current and corrected year-end financial reports.

ADJACENT AREAS: -IACC: Nothing reported. -B.C.: Nothing reported. -ORRC: Jon Marcinko- WR7JM, reported that Carl Holman- K7CH, has been working with ORRC on several UHF coordination items. Ed Bruette- N7NVP, reported that he received ORRC's coordination data from Ron Polluconi, KJ7IY, on April 6th. Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV asked if ORRC has a technical committee and offered to act as a liaison for any technical issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -Technical- Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV, provided his recap of the Puyallup. He also provided a summary of the coordination activity he has provided plots for, including interference and coverage prediction. He is working on coverage plots for the KO Peak/Mason County overlap.

-6/10 Meters- Board actions: None. Other/Pending: Ed Bruette- N7NVP, reported that 53.49 is being considered for a new request from Pete Kruml- N7KFJ, for use on KO Peak.

-2 Meters- Board actions: Previous to the meeting, the Board approved the reinstatement of the 147.24 KA7DNK repeater in Raymond. The membership approved the recommendation of assignment and changes of 145.19 N7HNM repeater on Lyman Hill.

The Band Chair discussed a new Technical Data Sheet received from Pete Kruml- N7KFJ, for a new (voice) repeater on 146.98 on Cougar Mountain. This would conflict with the KD7NM packet repeater operating on the same pair on Baldi Mountain, in which the coordination expired in 1999. Pete Kruml offered to co-channel with the use of a lockout receiver. In accordance with the WWARA Coordination Policies, the Band Chair authorized testing for the new repeater on Cougar.

-220- Board actions: None. Other/Pending: (The Band Chair was not able to attend the meeting.)

-440- Board actions: None. Other/Pending: (The Band Chair was not able to attend the meeting.) Jon Marcinko- WR7JM, provided a recap of the pending UHF items. Clay Freinwald- K7CR, pointed out that we are very delinquent many of the pending items.

-900/1.2- Board actions: None. Other/Pending: (The Band Chair was not able to attend the meeting.)

Bryon Gunnerson- WB0CZA, suggested that we reassess our use of the 900 MHz spectrum for linking and repeaters. Byron was asked by the Chair to discuss his ideas with our 900 Mhz Band Chair.

-NFCC Business: Clay Freinwald- K7CR, reported that Dick Isely- W9GIG, is updating his contact list of frequency coordinators. Clay said he will be meeting with Dick and Nels Harvey- WA9JOB, on May 10th, in Chicago during a business trip layover. Dick is the NFCC Secretary, and Nels is the NFCC Vice President.

OLD BUSINESS -Letter to ORRC regarding 145.15: Pete Policani- K7PP, requested that his application for 145.15 for KO Peak be withdrawn. Pete also said he is preparing a package to send to the FCC outlining his interference issues.

-Separating Secretary/Treasurer position: There is still interest in splitting the Sec/Trea position, which will require a change to the Bylaws. The Chair asked if anyone was interested is becoming the Secretary. (Two individuals expressed their interest after the meeting.)

-2001 WWARA Repeater Directory: Ed Bruette- N7NVP reported that he is in possession of the ORRC coordination data. Ed indicated that it was received in time to be included in the 2001 WWARA Repeater Directory. Mark McKibbin- WR7V will be compiling all of the data. Mark said he would also need complete info for any advertisements by the end of the week. The WWARA has received payments for 24 of the 2000 Repeater Directory (which was never printed). These payments are being tracked and will be applied towards the 2001 Directory.

-Financial Review Committee: Ed Bruette- N7NVP, read a letter from Bob Lewis- KC7TGA, Financial Committee Chair, indicating that the 2000 financial review was successfully completed on April 1st. Participants in the review included Bob, Board Member Ed Bruette- N7NVP, member at large Jon Marcinko- WR7JM, and Secretary/Treasurer Mark McClain- N6OBY. This year's review was held at Bob's residence on Bainbridge Island, and consisted of a review of the year 2000 financial records contained in QuickBooks, financial summary, and bank statements. No discrepancies were found.

NEW BUSINESS -Jon Marcinko- WR7JM, discussed the need for a modified Technical Data Sheet to capture appropriate information related to links. Jon talked about the difficulties in coordinating transmitters at populated sites when pertinent information related to receivers at the site is not known. Jon provided a sample copy of a modified Tech Data Sheet and asked for input. -Jon also stated that he is going to lead an effort with the UHF Band Committee to review our use of links in the UHF spectrum and put together a proposal that will free up pairs for repeater use.

-Ed Bruette- N7NVP said that Olympia and Aberdeen are being considered for future meeting locations. Anyone is welcome to submit potential meeting locations that will accommodate our meeting schedule- rotating between the first Thursday (evening) and first Saturday (morning) every other month.

-Clay Freinwald- K7CR, talked about his involvement with EAS (Emergency Alert System) and some of the changes taking place. Clay also mentioned that he and Marty Hadfield- WB7AFV will be giving a presentation on frequency coordination to the PARS group.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2001 at 7:00pm. The location and directions will be published on the web page.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:09pm.

Minutes by Mark McClain- N6OBY, Secretary/Treasurer.

Dues Exp.
Dec. 2003

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
PMB 243
16541 Redmond Way
Redmond, WA 98052

THE WESTERN WASHINGTON AMATEUR RELAY ASSOCIATION
SERVING REPEATER OWNERS AND USERS SINCE 1976

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440 MHZ			
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